

# WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER SEPTEMBER 2024

**3D2Z ROTUMA DXPEDITION  
NOVEMBER 15 TO  
DECEMBER 4, 2024**



Rotuma is an eighteen square mile island north of Fiji. There are less than 2,000 inhabitants on the island. Surrounding islands, rocks and reefs in the Rotuma group are uninhabited. In November, Hal Turley, W8HC will be part of a DX Expedition to the north coast of this tiny island as part of the Pacific Islands DXpedition Group (PIDXG) in partnership with Youth on the Air (YOTA) Americas. Rotuma recently became number 63 on the Club Log Most Wanted List.

The expedition organizer, Greg, W6IZT, is taking two of his NexGen Radios In Boxes (RIBs) to complement the six operators who plan on using three on-island stations. These two remote stations will be operated by young radio operators organized through YOTA. Their participation and operating schedule is being coordinated by 19 year old Kees (pronounced Case), W0AAE. In addition to the YOTA remote participants, three young operators, 23-year old Jamie, M0SDV, 23-year old Connor and 22 year-old Lukas, LY7J will be part of the on-island team.

If you wish to support participation of young operators in DXpeditioning and this this expedition in particular visit their website **Rotuma2024.com** for details. Your contributions will be most appreciated.

## Rotuma 3D2Z Band Plan

Band	CW	SSB	FT8
160M	1827.5 kHz		1836 kHz
80M	3527 kHz	3760 kHz	3567 kHz
60M			5357 kHz
40M	7027 kHz	7082 kHz	7056 kHz
30M	10103 kHz		10131 kHz
20M	14027 kHz	14210 kHz	14088 kHz
17M	18079 kHz	18130 kHz	18095 kHz
15M	21027 kHz	21285 kHz	21091 kHz
12M	24897 kHz	24932 kHz	24911 kHz
10M	28027 kHz	28485 kHz	28091 kHz
6M		50105 kHz	50310 kHz

In periods of slow activity standard FT8 frequencies may be used.

## SPLATTER BACK ISSUES

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has begun posting the current and former issues of Splatter on the Club website ([www.wv8ar.com](http://www.wv8ar.com)).

This emphasizes our intention that Splatter be a newsletter for all amateur radio operators in, from and around West Virginia.

Reposting copies on other clubs websites or sharing it with other hams by any other distribution method is not only allowed but is actively encouraged.

## BECOMING A PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

by Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

When I joined the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club club a new year was starting. Incoming officers were being announced. After the meeting I approached the Public Information Officer (PIO) and offered to help. As a new ham, I couldn't help anyone in any technical way; but by helping the PIO do leg work: post announcements, distribute fliers and that sort of thing, I could meet other hams and learn more about radios than just what was required for passing the test. Pretty soon the PIO and the club officers asked me to take over as PIO. I agreed.

I didn't know much about Public Relations, so I began searching online for guidance. Eventually, I took FEMAs online courses "IS-29a: Public Information Officer Awareness" and "IS-42a: Social Media in Emergency Management". After joining ARRL I took their "Public Relations 101 for Radio Amateurs" course. This took a few months.

Meanwhile, I tried to act like a PIO by re-writing old announcements, club fliers and ARRL fliers for up-coming events. After getting these drafts approved by the officers, I put them on bulletin boards in local stores and meeting areas. While this got the word out, it had a very limited audience. I wanted to reach more people.

Forty years ago I knew a woman who worked in Public Relations. She repeatedly said her contact list was her most useful tool. She used the Blue Book published by the WV Legislature to find addresses for appointed and elected officials at every level of government. I called to get a recent Blue Book and discovered they were no longer published.

I did find an old Blue Book in the local library. I used it to assemble a list of incorporated communities in Kanawha County. I used this list to search on line for mayors, members of city councils, police chiefs, fire chiefs and similar positions in county government. From the size of the list, I knew we couldn't afford to snail mail everyone for every event. I reduced the list to those showing an email address.

While on line, I found email addresses for the regional TV stations and newspapers, including weekly papers in surrounding counties. An editor at one newspaper recognized my name and email address and called me. He told me his paper deleted my emails because they included attachments. Attachments often contain viruses so organizations routinely delete them unread. I converted the fliers to PDF's and re-sent them in the body of the email as he suggested. He also told me about the West Virginia Legislature Membership Directory. This annual publication lists the contact information, including email addresses, for every Senator and Delegate in West Virginia.

At this point I had a pretty good contact list but wanted to expand it. I had found a Facebook page for another ham club. I began scanning my fliers into JPEG images. I posted the images on my Facebook page and shared them to both clubs. I found other groups that might allow posting these images. I quickly discovered that almost every little town, community or group has a separate Facebook page and wants postings. By joining these groups I could post JPEG of fliers and announcements on their Facebook pages. Some groups won't let you join unless you live in their community. So I asked hams in those areas to join their local group and re-post the announcements from our club page to their local group. Now it takes longer to draft a flier and convert it to an image, than it does to post it on a dozen pages. Some pages discourage posting the same image over and over. A comment about it brings it to the top of the list again.

There is one other advantage to posting on Facebook. You get regular reports on how many people "like" your posts and who they are. This immediate positive reinforcement boosts your ego. The only way to know if an official, editor, or the public has read your emails is if they show up at the event days or weeks later.

The point to all this is: If I can become a PIO so can you.

## SEVENTY FIVE YEARS OF KANAWHA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HISTORY

At a recent DX breakfast (Tuesday Mornings at 8:15 at Bob Evans on Jefferson Road in South Charleston) Hal Turley, W8HC, passed on to me a few files. Most were copies of KARC's Splatter from the days when he was editing it.

While I haven't read all of the files yet, I did skim through them. Among them I found an letter to W8HC from Bill Gary, K8CSG. Bill created the first Splatter in 1959 when he was President. He included photocopies of his first two Splatters issued in December, 1959 and January, 1960.

Separate documents in these files indicate the club originated in Dunbar on December 1, 1949, but the first meeting was on December 12. The unnamed group adopted the name "**Dunbar Amateur Radio Club**" and elected Bud Morris President. I have not been able to locate a call sign for Bud Morris.

On January 20, 1950 the group voted to change the name to "**Tri-City Amateur Radio Club**". Bill Given, W8YKX was the first President of the renamed club.

By June 7, 1955 the club had expanded beyond Dunbar, Nitro and St Albans so it was renamed to "**Kanawha Radio Club**". They were issued a West Virginia State Charter on October 8, 1957. On August 9, 1958 the call sign, W8COE was transferred from the Charleston Radio Club to the Kanawha Radio Club. Around 1969 or 1970 the club changed its call sign to W8GK after Dick Shoup became a silent key. Because of confusion with a CB club with a similar name, on March 12, 1974 the name was changed to the "**Kanawha Amateur Radio Club**".

So this December marks seventy-five years KARC has been in existence under one name or another. KARC intends to celebrate this milestone by having a covered dish dinner at The Trinity Lutheran Church, 1600 Kanawha Blvd. E, Charleston WV 25311, our usual meeting place. The dinner will take place sometime between November 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of the year. Once the space availability is confirmed another announcement will be distributed. All Amateur Radio Operators and their families will be invited.

### WINTER FIELD DAY WITH WVAR

WVAR is planning on participating in Winter Field Day at the Liberty Lions Club this coming January 25-26 (2025). Their participation is still in the beginning/planning stages. If you are interested in participating with them in the field, contact Tommy Hodges, K8AAT at [thodgesnais@gmail.com](mailto:thodgesnais@gmail.com). If you don't want to brave the elements with them, get on your radio and listen for their call sign: **WV8AR!**

### AMATEUR RADIO WEBSITES

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub PARK maintains their web page at: [w8par.org](http://w8par.org).

West Virginia Amateur Radio (WVAR) has their web page at [www.wv8ar.com/](http://www.wv8ar.com/).

Kanawha Amateur Radio Club (KARC) has moved their web page to [www.qsl.net/w8gk](http://www.qsl.net/w8gk).

East River Amateur Radio Club has their web page at <https://erarc.com>.

### WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

**It is our intention that West Virginia Splatter be a newsletter for all Amateur Radio Operators throughout the Mountain State, Or those who once lived here. If you know of a Ham who might like a copy, send in her, or his, email address and we will get it on our distribution list. Jim Hudson, KE8PNY at [nettlescreek@frontier.com](mailto:nettlescreek@frontier.com).**

**WHY DIGITAL**  
**A Guest Editorial**  
**by Charlie Young, N8RR**

The butt hurt among some long time DXer's regarding FT8 mode has greatly diminished. You don't hear as many taking subtle and not so subtle shots at DXpedition operators for using FT8. There are still a few diehards.

Recently one of these diehards was vigorously complaining about the lack of CW from the upcoming Glorioso expedition. He went through the spiel about never working digital counters for his DXCC. He is old school. More like stubborn and close minded, if you ask me.

Oh, but it turns out, he missed the big FT5GA expedition about 14 years ago (approximately) and Glorioso is the last entity needed for Top of Honor Roll. Guess what he says now? He has realized that if he ever gets Glorioso in his lifetime (he is older than me), it will likely have to be on FT8. Reality strikes, he will be in the FT8 pileup with the rest of us, and if he works it, he will be GLAD to submit the QSO for credit.

I hope he succeeds.

If the last one I need for Top of Honor Roll was upcoming in a month, I would be pulling out all stops to work it, even if we had to use smoke signals ?. I would even get on a phone DX List ugh.

I have never personally liked FT8, but concluded early in the game we need to be where the DX is. If I need it and FT8 is where the DX is working, I am there. Fortunately, most old timers have adopted this approach.

If I could chose to have or not have FT8 available, I would vote for FT8. There are lots of digital Q's for Challenge points in my log which would not be there without digital.

73 Charlie N8RR

**MUSEUM OF RADIO AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**1640 Florence Avenue**  
**Huntington, WV 25701**

I recently learned that the Museum of Radio and Technology had back issues of 73, CQ, QST and Ham Radio magazines available for a small donation. I'm a sucker for almost anything in print, the older the better. So Bob Delauter, KE8ZEC and I made a quick trip to Huntington to get them. These magazines ranged from the 1950s to 2023. I haven't read through all of them yet but I've put most of them in date order and begun skimming them for interesting articles.

It was our first visit to the museum, even though it was closedm we got to walk through the rooms and see the exhibits. Receivers, ham radios, amplifiers, commercial broadcast equipment and even audio stuff. It was enough of a visit to make me want to return when they are open and giving tours.

If you are going to the Huntington area, it is well worth your time to stop in and see how radio technology has evolved over the years

Transel Corporation, whose card is to the right, was the vendor for the Tri-state Amateur Radio Association Hamfest held on August 10. They carry a wide variety of connectors, coax, flashlights and other items of interest to hams. I hope to see more of this company at future hamfests. Support them, and your local hamfests.

**Transel Corporation**  
Electronics - Lasers - Lights - LED Badges  
**Darrell L. McKinney**  
President  
123 E. South Street PO Box 240  
Harpersburg, Ohio 45032-0240  
Phone: (513) 897-3442  
transel@yahoo.com  
www.transelonline.com



<b>NETS</b>	<b>MEETINGS</b>
<p><i>Kanawha ARES Net</i>  <i>Sundays at 8:00pm</i>  <i>145.350 PL 91.5</i></p> <p><i>Kanawha Amateur Radio Club (KARC) Net</i>  <i>Sundays at 8:30pm</i>  <i>145.350 PL 91.5</i></p> <p><i>Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club</i>  <i>Sunday at 7:00 PM</i>  <i>Digital net 441.825</i></p> <p><i>WV Amateur Radio Club (WVAR) Information Net</i>  <i>Tuesday at 8:30 P.M.</i>  <i>147.270 PL Tone 123.0</i></p> <p><i>Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (P.A.R.K.)</i>  Tuesdays, 9pm on all repeaters.  Repeater (linked)  146.970 MHz -offset  147.390 MHz +offset  444.725 MHz + offset  (all repeaters use 91.5 tone)</p> <p><i>Country Roads Net</i>  <i>Thursday 8:00 PM</i>  WV-Link Room 46488  Local Node Connection:  WVAR UHF 441.825 (Scott Depot, WV)  WB8CQV VHF 147.21 MHz (South Charleston, WV)  Hot spots use US-WV-LINK (19941)</p> <p><i>Ohio Valley ARES Net</i>  <i>Saturday 10:00 AM</i>  441.825</p> <p><i>Cabell County ARES Net</i>  Monday at 8:30pm  On the following linked repeaters:  W8VA 146.76- PL 131.8  N8OLC 146.985- PL 131.8  KB8TGK 443.850+ PL 162.2 (Echolink capable)</p>	<p><b>WV8AR will meet September 9 at</b>  CAMC Teays Valley Hospital  1400 Hospital Drive  Hurricane, WV 25526  Education Room at 7PM</p> <p><b>KARC will meet September 6 at</b>  The Trinity Lutheran Church  1600 Kanawha Blvd. E  Charleston WV 25311  Greetings @ 6 pm Meeting @ 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Kanawha ARES will meet on September 19 at</b>  Kanawha County 911 Center  100 Peyton Way (Off Corridor G)  Charleston, WV  Meeting @ 6:00 pm</p> <p><b>Tri-State Amateur Radio Club (TARA) will meet on September 17 at:</b>  Museum of Radio and Technology  1640 Florence Ave  Huntington, WV 25701.  Meeting @ 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>FREE CRAM COURSE</b></p> <p><b>KARC Volunteer Examiners will be conducting a FREE Technician Level Cram Course at 8:00 AM on September 21, 2024 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 1600 Kanawha E, Charleston WV 25311.</b></p> <p><b>Examinations for all levels will be offered after a break for lunch. Check next months Splatter for more details. A KARC Cram Course helped me get my first license.</b></p>
<p>Among the old issues of Splatter Hal Turley passed on to me, I found the article on the next two pages. It is as relevant now as it was in 1994 when Mike Mrvosh, W8LDZ wrote it.</p> <p>So, if you know about an event or news related to amateur radio, please write an article and submit it to Splatter at <a href="mailto:nettlescreek@frontier.com">nettlescreek@frontier.com</a></p>	
Jim Hudson, KE8PNY	

# *Working the “Paper Bands” — and using the 5 W’s to punch out your signal. . . .*

by Mike Mrvosh, W8LZC

**Y**ou've worked the low bands and your a regular on the high bands, but have you ever tried working the "Paper Bands"? "What's a paper band?", you ask. Your looking at it! The paper bands are the paper media with which we communicate our written words.

Strange as it seems, but as much as our hobby involves communication, few of us ever consider communicating our thoughts and ideas in a written article form. Except for a few scribbled notes during a QSO and maybe filling out a QSL card, writing is generally secondary to us.

Perhaps our reluctance to write is because we don't want to produce hard-copy evidence of our opinion or an experience for fear of reprisal. Or, perhaps we don't believe we are good enough to write a worthwhile story for publication. Whatever the reason, you shouldn't feel intimidated or anxious about setting out to tell your story on paper — and here's why.

First of all, we all have a potential story or news article tucked away in the recesses of our mind. It may be a news event story, a humorous experience, operating experience, safety related issue, construction, etc. Whatever it is, if it's in your memory, it's probably worth telling others about it. In fact, you probably have already related the story to someone on the air.

Secondly, generating a story for publication is no more difficult than tackling any other construction project. Once the idea is seeded, we go about collecting the parts for the project. In the case of writing a story, the parts are the details that go into the finished manuscript.

After the project components are gathered, we fire up the soldering iron and begin connecting the various components into a network that will eventually give us a working prototype. In writing, we fire up our pencils, pens, typewriters, etc. and begin connecting the details we have gathered into a network which will give us an

interesting and readable story.

Finally, when we set out on a construction project we usually have the secure feeling that if the completed project doesn't work or needs some fine tuning we can always call on our "Elmer" or some other expert to help us get it to work. Writers, too, have their Elmers. In writing they're called "Editors". By calling on your editor you not only can get your story operational, but you can also fine tune it so that it both interesting and very readable.

## *The Narrative*

There are different types of writings, but, for the purposes of this article, we will only consider story telling, or writing a narrative. The narrative can be a news event story, or it can be a personal experience story.

Regardless of the type of narrative, the basic elements of any narrative are simple; they involve answering the basic five questions: Who?, What?, Where?, When?, and Why? These questions are commonly referred to as the 5 W's, and stand for the five essential questions that must be answered before a story is complete. No story is complete without answering all 5 W's, and they don't necessarily have to be in any particular order to achieve the same effect.

## *Writing a News Story*

Now that your appetite is whet for working the paper bands, let's see how writing a news event story is done in practice. By way of example, let's say you want to write about the 1994 K.A.R.C. Field Day

(idea). The next step is to gather the parts (details). To do this, we simply jot down the answers to the 5 W's. This technique will ensure that you will include every detail necessary to generate a complete story.

Who — K. A. R. C. members

What — Participated in Field Day contest

When — June 25-26, 1994

Where — Cal Basham's property

Why — It's a tradition, and members enjoy the competition.

Next, we begin connecting the parts (details) together to produce a workable network (story).

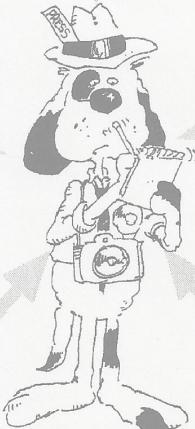
For our example: "The K. A. R. C. members participated in the 1994 A. R. R. L. Field Day exercise held at Cal Basham's South Hills property during the weekend of June 25, 1994. (That's the Who, What, Where, and When)

Field Day participation by the members is an annual event that has been a tradition since the 1950's." (that's the Why).

Although this example is a bare-bones report, it does answers all 5'Ws and this is where we start. Now we can expand our report into more interesting reading by adding more description to the core details: "The weather was perfect during the weekend of June 25, when the K.A.R.C. gang fired-up their portable rigs for the 1994 A.R.R.L. Field Day contest. (That's the When, Who, and What).

For the first time in weeks not a drop of rain fell, making this years operating sight at Cal Basham's sprawling acreage dry enough to negotiate the hilly terrain. (That's the Where) But, rain or shine, it didn't make any difference, every year the members enjoy pitting their operating skills against thousands of other operators throughout the country — and this year was no different." ( That's the Why)

This embellished version of our report gives the reader more interesting sidelights to picture the actual Field Day location and indicate the competitiveness of



the members. Of course, there are many other versions of this same story that could be conjured, but for all versions, the 5 W's must be answered to complete the story.

Two other elements of writing a news story must be considered, the tense and the person. Usually a news story is an event that has already occurred, therefore, the story should be written in past tense form. That is, "The weather *was* perfect...", not, "The weather *is* perfect...". Also, "But, rain or shine, it *didn't* make...", not, "But rain or shine, it *doesn't* make...".

The person is the point of view of the subject in the story. First person indicates the writer's experience and includes *I*, or *we* throughout the story. Second person refers to addressing someone else, the *you*. And third person indicates the person or thing being written about, it's the *he, she, it, they*.

In reporting a news story it's common to use third person. Therefore, it's the K. A. R. C. members who participated in the Field Day, not *we* participated.

### **Writing a Personal Experience Story**

Once again, the personal experience story includes answering all 5 W's. The major difference between the personal experience story and writing a news story is the point of view, or person that's used. The personal experience is written in first person and includes the *I* or *we* point of view.

For example: "*It was my first Field Day contest and I must admit, unlike the more seasoned K. A. R. C. members, I had butterflies in my stomach.*" (*That's the Who and What*). "*When I arrived at Cal Basham's property on June 25th, I was just in time to help string up the remaining doublets that would be used for the low band operations.*" (*That's the where and when*) "*After the doublets were strung, the contest got underway and I found myself nervously hunched over my operating position trying to score contacts. To my sur-*

*prise my butterflies soon disappeared, and before too long, I found myself in sync with the other operators; each one of us doing what we were all here to do, making contacts and enjoying every minute of it.* (*That's the why*).

In this example, the personal experience centered on getting over the anxiety of participating in a Field

Day contest for the first time. There are other aspects of participating in the contest that would be equally interesting. But, in all cases, the 5 W's are used to evolve the story.

### **Using the 5 W's to Focus a Topic**

Besides being included in the story itself, the 5 W's can also be used to focus in on a particular topic, for example, for brainstorming the topic of "Field Day". There are many aspects of the Field Day operation that could be explored, and with the help of the 5 W's, these aspects can be more clearly focused. The following examples are various Field Day subject articles which are revealed from answering the 5 W's.

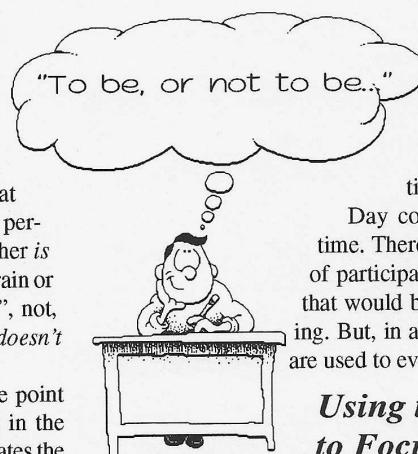
**Who** — Who participates in Field Day? This might lead to an article concerning the skills of members required to participate in a Field Day contest.

**What** — What type of antennas are best for Field Day operation? This could lead to an opinion of the antenna types and the arrangement of antennas at a Field Day sight, complete with layout diagrams.

**When** — When is the best time for contacts during a Field Day contest? This could lead to a statistically based article describing the number of contacts per hour, per operator, etc.

**Where** — Where is the best location for Field Day? This could lead to the pros and cons of various Field Day sights.

**Why** — Why should K. A. R. C. members participate in Field Day? This could lead to a convincing argument for those members who don't believe in participating in Field Day.



### **Submitting an Article to the Splatter Newsletter**

The following are the types of articles solicited by your editorial staff:

⇒ News (club events, including amateur radio demonstrations, community service, etc.)

⇒ Personal Experience (operating, problem solving, tutorial, etc.)

⇒ Construction (include diagrams, schematics, and personal experiences with the device)

⇒ Opinion (likes, dislikes, proposals for activities, etc.)

All articles submitted must include: author's name and call, telephone number, subject title, and story.

Articles can be neatly hand written, typewritten, or preferably submitted on 3.5 " disk as an ASCII text file.

Submit articles to: Hal Turley, KC8FS  
657 Forest Circle, S. Charleston WV.  
25303. Tel. 744-5949  
or to: Mike Mrvosh, W8LZC  
260 Pine Circle, Dunbar, WV 25064  
Tel. 768-6306

### **Publishing Your Story**

This brief tutorial is meant to stimulate our members into writing articles for our newsletter. Your editorial staff welcomes all types of stories and promises to publish them in future issues of the *Splatter*. The article submission steps are described in the side-bar in this article and can be used as a guide for getting your story into print.

The important point is that you should give serious consideration to writing an article. Writing will broaden your communication skills, or at least polish the old ones. And remember, while propagation on the other bands may be dismal during the cycle low, the "paper bands" are always open!

## THE MORSE CODE

### GROUP 1

E	dit
T	dah
A	di dah
R	di dah dit
Period (.)	di dah di dah di dah

### GROUP 5

M	dah dah
O	dah dah dah
G	dah dah dit
Z	dah dah di dit
Q	dah dah di dah
Comma (,)	dah dah di di dah dah

### GROUP 2

N	dah dit
D	dah di dit
K	dah di dah
C	dah di dah dit
X	dah di di dah
Y	dah di dah dah

### GROUP 6

1	di dah dah dah dah
2	di di dah dah dah
3	di di di dah dah
4	di di di di dah
5	di di di di dit

### GROUP 3

I	di dit
S	di di dit
H	di di di dit
V	di di di dah
J	di dah dah dah
B	dah di di dit

### GROUP 7

6	dah di di di dit
7	dah dah di di dit
8	dah dah dah di dit
9	dah dah dah dah dit
0	dah dah dah dah dah
Error	di di di di di dit

### GROUP 4

W	di dah dah
L	di dah di dit
P	di dah dah dit
U	di di dah
F	di di dah dit
Question Mark (?)	di di dah dah di dit

### GROUP 8

Slash (/)	dah di di dah dit
End of message ( <u>AR</u> )	di dah di dah dit
Double Hyphen ( <u>BT</u> )	dah di di di dah
End of contact ( <u>SK</u> )	di di di dah di dah